



M.O.E. Policy Manual

POLICY TITLE	LEVELS OF TREATMENT FOR MUNICIPAL AND PRIVATE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS DISCHARGING TO SURFACE WATERS	NO. 08-01-01		
<p><u>Legislative Authority</u></p> <p>Ontario Water Resources Act (Sec. 24 - R.S.O. 1980)</p>				
<p><u>Statement of Principles</u></p> <p>This policy describes the levels of treatment that the Ministry will require at municipal and private sewage treatment works discharging to surface waters. The measures described in this policy are in accord with Policy 15-01 of the Manual of Environmental Policies and Guidelines which references the Ministry publication <u>WATER MANAGEMENT - Goals, Policies, Objectives and Implementation Procedures of the Ministry of the Environment</u> (Revised May 1984).</p> <p>This policy applies to sewage works operated by municipalities or others, the main function of which is to treat human waste.</p> <p>All Guidelines referred to in this policy are available from Water Resources Branch.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="259 1113 1494 1344"><tr><td data-bbox="259 1113 747 1228">1. <u>Ministry Requirements of Municipal & Private Sewage Works</u></td><td data-bbox="747 1113 1494 1344">The Ministry requires that municipal and private sewage treatment works, outfall structures and emergency overflow facilities be located, designed, constructed and operated so as to minimize pollution of receiving waters and interference with water uses.</td></tr></table> <p style="text-align: right;">April 5, 1983</p>			1. <u>Ministry Requirements of Municipal & Private Sewage Works</u>	The Ministry requires that municipal and private sewage treatment works, outfall structures and emergency overflow facilities be located, designed, constructed and operated so as to minimize pollution of receiving waters and interference with water uses.
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<p><u>Point of Contact</u> Supervisor, Municipal-Industrial Strategy for Abatement - Municipal Section, Water Resources Branch</p>				
<table border="1" data-bbox="251 1879 1502 2068"><tr><td data-bbox="251 1879 893 2068"><p><u>Effective Date</u></p><p>January 18, 1983</p></td><td data-bbox="893 1879 1502 2068"></td></tr></table>			<p><u>Effective Date</u></p> <p>January 18, 1983</p>	
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2. Normal Level of Treatment

The normal level of treatment required for municipal and private sewage treatment works discharging to surface waters is secondary treatment, or equivalent. Hereinafter, normal level of treatment shall mean secondary treatment or equivalent.

2.1 Relaxation of Normal Treatment

A relaxation of normal level of treatment will only be allowed on a case-by-case basis, and in accordance with the Ministry guidelines listed below:

- (a) Guidelines for the Determination of Treatment Requirements for Municipal and Private Sewage Treatment Works Discharging to Surface Waters
- (b) Procedural Guidelines for Relaxation of the Normal Level of Treatment for Municipal and Private Sewage Treatment Works Discharging to Surface Waters.

Under no circumstances will the level of treatment required be less than primary treatment.

2.2 Higher Than Normal Treatment

Higher levels of treatment than secondary, up to and including 'no discharge to surface waters' may be imposed in accordance with Ministry Guidelines listed below:

- (a) Guidelines for the Determination of Treatment Requirements for Municipal and Private Sewage Treatment Works Discharging to Surface Waters.

Higher than normal level of treatment shall be justified by appropriate site-specific receiving water assessments.

3. Review of Treatment Levels

The level of treatment required for individual sewage treatment works shall be subject to periodic review by Regional Offices as necessary especially when expansions of sewage treatment works are contemplated.

More stringent treatment requirements may be imposed as found necessary by site specific receiving water assessment.

4. Effluent Requirements

For new or expanded sewage treatment works discharges, the level of treatment will be derived by applying the measures in 2.0, 2.1 and 2.2 above. Effluent requirements, including both waste loadings and concentrations will be incorporated into Certificates of Approval.

For existing sewage treatment works, the level of treatment required will be subject to review and update. Effluent requirements shall be assigned to individual existing works.

These effluent requirements shall be derived in accordance with the Guidelines listed below:

- (a) Procedural Guidelines for the Derivation of Sewage Treatment Works Effluent Requirements and for the Incorporation of Effluent Requirements into Certificates of Approval for New or Expanded Sewage Treatment Works.

5. Effluent Requirements Compliance Assessment and Enforcement

A comprehensive monitoring program, including regular sampling of sewage works effluents and recording of flows, will be undertaken by the works operating authority. This will permit assessment of compliance with effluent requirements and, if necessary, initiation of appropriate remedial measures for works out of compliance.

The compliance assessment and enforcement actions will be carried out in accordance with Policy 08-06 and the Guidelines listed below:

- Procedural Guidelines for the Derivation of Sewage Treatment Works Effluent Requirements and for the Incorporation of Effluent Requirements into Certificates of Approval for New or Expanded Sewage Treatment Works.

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6. Phosphorus Removal Requirements
Phosphorus removal is required for certain sewage treatment works discharging to a number of water bodies in the Province. Please refer to Ministry policy on Provision and Operation of Phosphorus Removal Facilities at Municipal and Private Sewage Treatment Works for details (currently being prepared for the Manual).
7. Effluent Disinfection Requirement
Effluent disinfection requirements are contained in Ministry policy on Effluent Disinfection Requirements (currently being prepared for the Manual).
8. By-Passing and Combined Sewer Overflows
Minimizing of by-passing of sewage and combined sewer overflows is required in accordance with policy now being developed by MOE and the following guidelines:

Guidelines for the Determination of Treatment Requirements for Municipal and Private Sewage Treatment Works Discharging to Surface Waters.
9. Sewage Treatment Works Expansion
The Ministry's conditions for sewage treatment works expansion are contained in Ministry policy being developed on Sewage Treatment Works Expansion.
10. Sampling and Analysis Requirements
The Ministry's sampling and analysis requirements for municipal and private sewage treatment works are contained in Policy 08-06.
11. Deviation from Policies and Guidelines
Any deviation or relaxation from the policies listed in Sections 1.0 - 10.0 above and their related Guidelines must receive the concurrence of the Director, Water Resources Branch.

April 5, 1983